

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (previously presented) A bar-code reader comprising:  
a reading unit that reads a bar code optically to thereby acquire a scan data;  
a decoding unit that processes the scan data to thereby decode contents of the bar code;  
a reader management storing unit that determines whether the contents of the bar code is management information that is information about any one of hardware and of software installed in the bar-code reader and stores the contents of the bar code only if the contents of the bar code is the management information.

Claim 2 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the reading unit scans the bar code by shifting a position of irradiation of laser beam on the bar code.

Claim 3 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the reading unit is an optical touch scanner.

Claim 4 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a communicating unit that reads, if there is a request for the management information from an external terminal, management information corresponding to the request from the storing unit and transmits the management information read to the external terminal.

Claim 5 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the storing unit is installed in a position that enables reading by the reading unit and a management-information bar-code with contents same as the management information is attached to the storing unit.

Claim 6 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 4, wherein a label-setting area is provided for setting the management-information bar-code and the reading unit reads the label-setting area selectively when management information is to be acquired.

Claim 7 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to the bar-code reader.

Claim 8 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to a component of the bar-code reader.

Claim 9 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of the bar-code reader.

Claim 10 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of a component of the bar-code reader.

Claim 11 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of software installed in the bar-code reader.

Claim 12 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information is date and time of replacement of a component of the bar-code reader.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A bar-code reader comprising:  
a communicating unit that receives information including management information from an external unit, the management information being information about any one of hardware of and software installed in the bar-code reader; and  
a reader management storing unit that ~~stores only the management information received by the communicating unit~~ determines whether the received information is said management information and stores the received information only if the received information is said management information.

Claim 14 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the communicating unit reads, if there is a request for the management information from the external terminal, management information corresponding to the request from the storing unit and transmits the management information read to the external terminal.

Claim 15 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to the bar-code reader.

Claim 16 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to a component of the bar-code reader.

Claim 17 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of the bar-code reader.

Claim 18 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of a component of the bar-code reader.

Claim 19 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of software installed in the bar-code reader.

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Claim 20 (original) The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information is date and time of replacement of a component of the bar-code reader.